(d) whether it is also a fact that delay occurs at Vijayawada Railway Station; and

(e) the steps proposed to improve traffic movement at Vijayawada Railway Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The run of trains is being monitored on a real time basis to minimise avoidable detentions apart from conducting intensive food plate inspections.

Proposed running of North Bengal Express

1168. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the propsed North Bengal Express from Sealdah to Cooachbehar will be a train at par with Shatabdi Express;

(b) if not, whether a Shatabdi-like Express to North Bengal would be introducted as assured during the discussion on Railways Budget (Supplementary) on 14th August, 1997; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the commitment made-3147/3148 Uttar Banga Express between Sealdah and New Cooach Behar has already been introduced from 20.5.98. No commitment for the introduction of a Shatabdi type train was made.

Railway Stations under Private Control in Punjab

1169. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of Railway Stations in Punjab are under private control since independence;

(b) if so, their names, district-wise, as on 15th March, 1993;

(c) whether these private owned railway stations have not been providing basic amenities to the passengers travelling from these stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have been requested to take over these railway stations under their control during 1993; and

(f) if so, the names of these stations and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) There are 47 halt stations in the State of Punjab managed by halt contractors.

(a) A statement is attached. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) All basic amenities have been provided at these contractor opearted halt stations, which are considered adequate for the present level of passenger traffic at these stations.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise

Statement

Name of Halt Station	District
1. Bhattian	Jallandhar
2. Dhogri	Jallandhar
3. Ajitgill Matta	Firozpur
4. Dhindsa	Firozpur
5. Maheshri Sandhuan	Firozpur
6.Parao Mahna	Firozpur
7. Khai Phermeki	Firozpur
8. D.A.V. College (Jalalabad)	Firozpur